

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 INR-07
LAB-04 NSAE-00 SIL-01 AF-10 ARA-06 EA-07 EUR-12
DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 L-03 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01
SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 DHA-02 IOE-00 /119 W
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P R 011355Z JUN 77
FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
TO USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 8173

C O N F I D E N T I A L KUWAIT 3018

GENEVA PASS USDEL ILO HOROWITZ

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ILO, KU, IS, US
SUBJECT: KUWAITI POSTURE AT ILO MEETING, GENEVA

REF: KUWAIT 2824

1. IN ITS COVERAGE OF THE JUNE 1 DEPARTURE OF KUWAITI DELEGATION
TO THE GENEVA ILO MEETING, THE LOCAL PRESS REPORTS THAT THE DELEGATION

HEAD, MINISTER OF SOCIAL AFFAIRS AND LABOR, SHEIKH SALEM AL-SABAH,
EXPRESSED HIS HOPE THAT U.S. WILL NOT LEAVE THE ILO AND HIS
BELIEF THAT IT WILL NOT. HE REPORTEDLY ADDED THAT HE DID NOT THINK
THE "WESTER EUROPEAN NATIONS" WOULD FOLLOW AN AMERICAN WITHDRAWAL,
BUT THAT EVEN UNILATERAL ACTION BY THE U.S. WOULD PLACE THE ILO IN AN
EMBARASSING POSITION. ONE PRESS REPORT INDICATED THAT THE KUWAITI
MINISTER "WILL MAKE ONE ORAL AND TWO WRITTEN SUGGESTIONS" TO ENCOURAGE

A COMPROMISE, DESIGNED TO AVOID U.S. WITHDRAWAL, AND THAT "IT IS
LIKELY THAT THE USG WILL ACCEPT ONE OF THESE SOLUTIONS."

2. BESIDES MINISTER AL-SABAH, THE KUWAIT DELEGATION TO
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THE GENEVA ILO MEETING IS REPORTED TO BE AS FOLLOWS:
A. GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVES (MINISTRY OF SOCIAL AFFAIRS AND
LABOR EXCEPT WHERE INDICATED):
---MOHAMMAD SHABNAN AL-TAMER, ASST. UNDER SECRETARY FOR
LABOR AFFAIRS
---ABDULLAH GHALLOUM HUSAIN, DIRECTOR OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS
---ABDULLAH FUZAN AL-NAJADAH, DIRECTOR OF EMPLOYMENT

---AMINAH AL-RASHAED AL-HAMDAN, DIRECTOR OF LABOR WELFARE
---AHMAD KHALED AL-KULAIB, DIRECTOR OF LABOR INSPECTION
---FAYSAL ALI AL-DAOUD, DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF THE MINISTER
---ABDULLATIF AL-SALEH, FIRST SECRETARY OF KUWAIT EMBASSY, CAIRO
?. EMPLOYERS REPRESENTATIVES:
---ABDUL BAQI ABDULLAH AL-NOURI, CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD, PETRO-
CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES
---AQEEL AHMAD AL-JASEM, KUWAIT CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND
INDUSTRY
C. WORKERS REPRESENTATIVES:
---ALI ABDUL RAHMAN AL-KANDARI
---KHALIL HUBEISHI

3. COMMENT ON WORKERS REPRESENTATIVE AL-KANDARI (LISTED ABOVE):
AL KANDARI IS ASST. SECRETARY, EXECUTIVE COUNCIL, KUWAIT WORKERS
CONFEDERATION (KWC) AND FORMER SECRETARY OF MINISTRY OF
SOCIAL AFFAIRS AND LABOR WORKERS UNION. HE IS ALSO MANAGING
DIRECTOR OF AL-AMAL, KWC HOUSE ORGAN. AL-KANDARI WAS ONE OF
THOSE ARRESTED BY GOK ON SEPTEMBER 19, 1976, FOLLOWING ALLEGED UNION
INVOLVEMENT IN PUBLICATION AND DISTRIBUTION OF A PAMPHLET CRITICAL
OF GOK POLICIES. A SELF-PROCLAIMED "MAXIST", AL-KANDARI WAS
ALSO ARRESTED IN 1969 IN CONNECTION WITH PLACING EXPLOSIVES
AT MINISTRY OF INTERIOR BUILDING. DESPITE THIS RADICAL BACK-
GROUND, HOWEVER, AL-KANDARI WAS ALLOWED TO PLAY PROMINENT ROLE
IN RECENT MAY DAY CELEBRATIONS, IN WHICH STRONG WORKERS
SOLIDARITY RHETORIC WAS MIXED WITH EQUALLY STRONG EXPRESSIONS OF
DEFERENCE FOR GOK.

4. KUWAITI PRESS HAS ASSERTED THAT THE FOLLOWING ARE THE
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SPECIFIC INTEREST OF KUWAITI LABOR UNIONS AT GENEVA MEETING
A "LAW OF 1968" (NO IDENTIFYING NUMBER GIVEN) (PRESUMABLY ILO
RESOLUTION) CONCERNING ASSISTANCE TO NEEDY FAMILIES; A "LAW NO. 3",
CONCERNING EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT (UNION REPORTEDLY WILL WISH TO
MAKE AMENDMENTS PROVIDING FOR TERMINATION BENEFITS TO
RETIRED WORKERS IN ADDITION TO PENSIONS, AND A "LAW 18 OF 1968"
CONCERNING COMPENSATION FOR INJURIES INCURRED WHILE WORKING IN THE
PUBLIC SECTOR. PRESS HAS ALSO ASSERTED THAT THE KUWAIT DELEGATION
WILL LEAD THE ARAB EFFORT TO CHASTISE ISRAEL FOR BAD TREATMENT
OF ARABS IN "OCCUPIED AREAS."
SUTHERLAND

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Sent Date: 01-Jun-1977 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Approved on Date:
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